

## **Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee**

**Wednesday, January 09, 2013 Weston Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Members Present:** Alycia Angus, Ray Rauth (Chairman), Julie Sidhu (Recording) Bernie Park

**Guest:** Jan Ledwick

**Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rauth at 12:40p.m**

### **Chairman's remarks:**

Ray gave an update on the proposed Old Hyde Rd/ school property trail. Tracy K. in land record dept. confirmed that the town of Weston owns the small tract of land free and clear. Such a road is known as a "paper road". Ray questioned whether now was the time to move forward with this given the Newtown tragedy and the school safety issue. Also, it was noted that the movement of the Senior center from South House to North House has been put on hold.

### **Pro Forma Matters:**

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Ray Rauth. Seconded by Alycia Angus

**Approval of January Minutes:** Moved by Julie Sidhu (Thank you, Louise) Seconded by Alycia

**Old Business:** Jan gave an update on road safety issue of speeding on Godfrey Road and shared an e mail from Chief Troxell outlining police department actions regarding this issue and future plans. Chief Troxell recommended garnering public support for initiatives. The bike/ped committee is supportive of actions that will increase the safety of road use in town.

It was noted that members of the Bike/Ped committee need to have a clear vision as to how each commission/board and town department works when issues/projects concern more than one group. It was suggested that we should send a representative to town meetings in order to learn how things work and acquire knowledge that might be pertinent to our decision making. The Planning and Zoning and Police Commission are two meetings that members might want to attend.

**Request for Information:** At a previous meeting it was requested of the First Selectman if we could be notified regarding state or inter- town meetings regarding bike/pedi issues. No information has been shared with the group, but Ray noted that the first selectman's office has been busy, so we should follow up on this. Judy Devito??

Ray noted that Gayle Weinstein is still actively pursuing plans regarding SWTS and suggested that perhaps we need to arrange a follow up meeting to see how much progress has been made.

**Bike Rodeo:** Kiwanis Club approached Ray regarding holding a Bike Rodeo. Bob Uzenoff will be invited to a future meeting.

**New Business:**

Ray asked the group to reflect upon last year's goals and our progress. All in all it was a good year. "Share the Road" signs were installed over town, the Big bike Pedi Event was a huge success, School education initiatives were shared with Kim Kus and implemented by herself and teachers in the elementary and middle schools. Kim Kus (now interim Principal at Hurlbutt) invited the group to propose a program for a high school assembly regarding Bike/Pedestrian/Driver safety.

Our big plan for a walkable village loop will have to be tabled for now until the school safety issues have been discussed and future plans implemented.

**Goals 2013:** A future meeting will be dedicated to our 2013 goals including B.B.P.E 2013, promotion and awareness of website, proposed guided walks and the walkable loop. In considering our goals, Ray asked that we ask ourselves, "Why do we stay in Weston and do we plan to stay if not using the school system?" At a prior meeting Gayle W. told us that the school population was only approx. 30% of the town population.

All agreed that the sidewalk projects of our neighboring towns, Wilton, Georgetown- (Redding section) Westport, Ridgefield and Fairfield were impressive. Given the state friendly environment regarding pedestrian safety, it was suggested that we look into how Weston can take advantage of this and improve quality of life for a greater percentage of Weston residents.

Julie suggested that despite having to table for now the larger village loop a smaller loop avoiding school property is still feasible, especially as both the Weston Road/Norfield Rd. and Weston Road/School Road intersections are already scheduled for improvement. A closed sidewalk loop could run from Dr. Noonan's office south through town center, cross at Norfield Rd, run up the left side of Norfield Rd. as far as the library/town hall, pass behind the police/fire station through the Onion barn and along Weston road up to School Road. Having a footpath with a focused destination is more likely to encourage pedestrians to cross at the crossings already in place and encourage visitors in town to venture from the town center to the town hall/library complex.

Ray asked for a volunteer project leader. Bernie Park volunteered to lead this initiative. Julie will look into ownership and depth of town/state ownership along proposed route.

**Move to adjourn Ray, Julie**

**Meeting adjourned 1: 50 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: February 6<sup>th</sup> 2013**

